



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## President Nez congratulates the Diné College Class of 2021



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez addresses Diné College graduates during a commencement ceremony held in Tsaile, Ariz. on Dec. 10, 2021.

**TSAILE, Ariz.** — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez had the honor of attending the Diné College Fall Commencement ceremony on Friday, to congratulate the graduating Class of 2021 at the college's campus in Tsaile, Ariz. Due to risks associated with COVID-19, the college held two graduation ceremonies, which were live-streamed for the public to view online.

President Nez joined the Diné College Board of Regents and President Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel, in recognizing the 82 graduates who earned their degrees from the Diné College School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, School of Arts, Humanities, and English, School of Business and Social Sciences, and the School of Diné Studies and Education.

“We congratulate all of you on your remarkable accomplishments. Just as our ancestors did long ago, you all persevered and overcame many challenges to be here today. You exemplify the strength and resilience of our ancestors. In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, you rose to the challenge and achieved this great milestone. As we come together to celebrate your achievements, we must also honor and recognize all of your parents, grandparents, teachers, and everyone who supported you and helped you along the way,” said President Nez.

He also acknowledged that life will continue to present many challenges, and encouraged the graduates to continue using the teachings of their elders to strive forward and continue achieving their goals throughout life.

“I’m sure all of you were raised with the tough love of your parents and grandparents. They don’t mess around — they’re up and working before the sun rises every morning, building the fire, tending to their livestock, and preparing for the day. It’s through the teachings and discipline of our elders that we continue to strive forward as Navajo people. You exemplify the strength and resilience of our people, and you are the future of our Nation,” added President Nez.

Chinle Unified School District Superintendent Quincy Natay, who was recently recognized as Arizona’s Superintendent of the Year, served as the keynote speaker. He drew upon his personal experiences and teachings to encourage the graduates to continue working hard and to never give up on learning new things and pursuing new goals.

“There is always more to learn and more to achieve. I’m not done yet and neither are you. Don’t rest on your successes or hope that someone will make a difference for you. You can make the difference by being committed to a bigger purpose with a commitment to increasing opportunities for all – that is real success. As you venture out into the workforce, never become complacent or satisfied and don’t avoid working harder. It takes hard work. Remember, long hours, late nights, and the passion to do great things creates success,” said Superintendent Natay.

Diné College Board of Regents President Greg Bigman was also in attendance and stated, “Diné College conferred 82 degrees and certificates, and four honorary doctorate degrees. These graduates represent individuals throughout the Navajo Nation. The exercise of their degrees will build stronger communities and Navajo Nation.”

The Nez-Lizer Administration congratulates the Class of 2021 from Diné College and thanks the Board of Regents, President Roessel, and all of the faculty and staff for their support of Navajo students. The commencement ceremony may be viewed online on the Diné College’s YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgHKhBt7nP0>.

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